

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2280

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## AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid for service-connected disabilities, to enhance the compensation, memorial affairs, and housing programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve retirement authorities applicable to judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and for other purposes.

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1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
 2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3        **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4        (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
 5        “Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 1999”.

6        (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
 7        this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

**TITLE I—COMPENSATION**

Sec. 101. Increase in rates of disability compensation and dependency and in-  
 demnity compensation.

Sec. 102. Presumption that bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma is service-connected.

Sec. 103. Dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses of  
 former prisoners of war.

Sec. 104. Reinstatement of certain benefits for remarried surviving spouses of  
 veterans upon termination of their remarriage.

**TITLE II—MEMORIAL AFFAIRS**

**Subtitle A—American Battle Monuments Commission**

Sec. 201. Codification and expansion of authority for World War II Memorial.

Sec. 202. General authority to solicit and receive contributions.

Sec. 203. Intellectual property and related items.

Sec. 204. Technical amendments.

**Subtitle B—National Cemeteries**

Sec. 211. Establishment of additional national cemeteries.

Sec. 212. Independent study on improvements to veterans’ cemeteries.

**TITLE III—HOUSING**

Sec. 301. Permanent eligibility for housing loans for former members of the Se-  
 lected Reserve.

Sec. 302. Homeless veterans’ reintegration programs.

Sec. 303. Transitional housing loan guarantee program technical amendment.

**TITLE IV—COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS**

Sec. 401. Authority to prescribe rules and regulations.

Sec. 402. Recall of retired judges.

Sec. 403. Calculation of years of service as a judge.

Sec. 404. Judges’ retired pay.

Sec. 405. Survivor annuities.

Sec. 406. Limitation on activities of retired judges.

Sec. 407. Early retirement authority for current judges in order to provide for staggered terms of judges.

#### TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Repeal of certain sunset provisions.

Sec. 502. Enhanced quality assurance program within the Veterans Benefits Administration.

Sec. 503. Extension of Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans.

Sec. 504. Codification of recurring provisions in annual Department of Veterans Affairs appropriations Acts.

#### 1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in  
3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms  
4 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-  
5 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a  
6 section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

### 7 **TITLE I—COMPENSATION**

#### 8 **SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-** 9 **TION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY** 10 **COMPENSATION.**

11 (a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
12 Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 1999, increase the  
13 dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-  
14 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by  
15 the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

16 (b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar  
17 amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are  
18 the following:

1           (1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar  
2 amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38,  
3 United States Code.

4           (2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-  
5 ENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under  
6 sections 1115(1) of such title.

7           (3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar  
8 amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

9           (4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in  
10 effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section  
11 1311(a) of such title.

12           (5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar  
13 amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such  
14 title.

15           (6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES  
16 WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in ef-  
17 fect under section 1311(b) of such title.

18           (7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The  
19 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and  
20 1311(d) of such title.

21           (8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The  
22 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and  
23 1314 of such title.

24           (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The in-  
25 crease under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar

1 amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on Novem-  
2 ber 30, 1999.

3 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such  
4 amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the  
5 percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title  
6 II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are  
7 increased effective December 1, 1999, as a result of a de-  
8 termination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 415(i)).

10 (3) Each dollar amount increased pursuant to para-  
11 graph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded  
12 down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

13 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust ad-  
14 ministratively, consistent with the increases made under  
15 subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation pay-  
16 able to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public  
17 Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of  
18 compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38,  
19 United States Code.

20 (e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—At the  
21 same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D)  
22 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are  
23 required to be published by reason of a determination  
24 made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year  
25 1999, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in

1 the Federal Register the amounts specified in subsection  
 2 (b), as increased pursuant to this section.

3 **SEC. 102. PRESUMPTION THAT BRONCHIOLO-ALVEOLAR**  
 4 **CARCINOMA IS SERVICE-CONNECTED.**

5 Section 1112(c)(2) is amended by adding at the end  
 6 the following new subparagraph:

7 “(P) Bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma.”.

8 **SEC. 103. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**  
 9 **FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF FORMER PRIS-**  
 10 **ONERS OF WAR.**

11 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1318(b) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “that either—” in the matter  
 13 preceding paragraph (1) and inserting “rated totally  
 14 disabling if—”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
 16 paragraph:

17 “(3) the veteran was a former prisoner of war  
 18 who died after September 30, 1999, and who had  
 19 been diagnosed as having one of the diseases speci-  
 20 fied in section 1112(b) of this title.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is  
 22 further amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1)—

24 (A) by inserting “the disability” after  
 25 “(1)”; and

1 (B) by striking “or” after “death;”; and  
 2 (2) in paragraph (2)—

3 (A) by striking “if so rated for a lesser pe-  
 4 riod, was so rated continuously” and inserting  
 5 “the disability was continuously rated totally  
 6 disabling”; and

7 (B) by striking the period at the end and  
 8 inserting “; or”.

9 **SEC. 104. REINSTATEMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR RE-**  
 10 **MARRIED SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS**  
 11 **UPON TERMINATION OF THEIR REMARRIAGE.**

12 (a) RESTORATION OF PRIOR ELIGIBILITY.—Section  
 13 103(d) is amended—

14 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(2) The remarriage of the surviving spouse of a vet-  
 17 eran shall not bar the furnishing of benefits specified in  
 18 paragraph (5) to such person as the surviving spouse of  
 19 the veteran if the remarriage has been terminated by  
 20 death or divorce unless the Secretary determines that the  
 21 divorce was secured through fraud or collusion.

22 “(3) If the surviving spouse of a veteran ceases living  
 23 with another person and holding himself or herself out  
 24 openly to the public as that person’s spouse, the bar to  
 25 granting that person benefits as the surviving spouse of



1 the veteran shall not apply in the case of the benefits spec-  
2 ified in paragraph (5).

3 “(4) The first month of eligibility for benefits for a  
4 surviving spouse by reason of this subsection shall be the  
5 month after—

6 “(A) the month of the termination of such re-  
7 marriage, in the case of a surviving spouse described  
8 in paragraph (2); or

9 “(B) the month of the cessation described in  
10 paragraph (3), in the case of a surviving spouse de-  
11 scribed in that paragraph.

12 “(5) Paragraphs (2) and (3) apply with respect to  
13 benefits under the following provisions of this title:

14 “(A) Section 1311, relating to dependency and  
15 indemnity compensation.

16 “(B) Section 1713, relating to medical care for  
17 survivors and dependents of certain veterans.

18 “(C) Chapter 35, relating to educational assist-  
19 ance.

20 “(D) Chapter 37, relating to housing loans.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1311 is  
22 amended by striking subsection (e).

23 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
24 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the first day

1 of the first month beginning after the month in which this  
 2 Act is enacted or October 1, 1999, whichever is later.

3 (d) LIMITATION.—No payment may be made to a  
 4 person by reason of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section  
 5 103(d) of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
 6 section (a), for any period before the effective date speci-  
 7 fied in subsection (c).

## 8 **TITLE II—MEMORIAL AFFAIRS**

### 9 **Subtitle A—American Battle**

### 10 **Monuments Commission**

#### 11 **SEC. 201. CODIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY**

#### 12 **FOR WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL.**

13 (a) CODIFICATION OF EXISTING AUTHORITY; EX-  
 14 PANSION OF AUTHORITY.—(1) Chapter 21 of title 36,  
 15 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
 16 following new section:

#### 17 **“§ 2113. World War II memorial in the District of Co-** 18 **lumbia**

19 “(a) SOLICITATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRIBU-  
 20 TIONS.—Consistent with its authority under section  
 21 2103(e) of this title, the American Battle Monuments  
 22 Commission shall solicit and accept contributions for the  
 23 memorial authorized by Public Law 103–32 (40 U.S.C.  
 24 1003 note) to be established by the Commission on Fed-  
 25 eral land in the District of Columbia or its environs to

1 honor members of the Armed Forces who served in World  
2 War II and to commemorate the participation of the  
3 United States in that war (hereinafter in this section re-  
4 ferred to as the ‘World War II memorial’).

5 “(b) CREATION OF MEMORIAL FUND.—(1) There is  
6 hereby created in the Treasury a fund for the World War  
7 II memorial. The fund shall consist of the following:

8 “(A) Amounts deposited, and interest and pro-  
9 ceeds credited, under paragraph (2).

10 “(B) Obligations obtained under paragraph (3).

11 “(C) The amount of surcharges paid to the  
12 Commission for the World War II memorial under  
13 the World War II 50th Anniversary Commemorative  
14 Coins Act (31 U.S.C. 5112 note).

15 “(D) Amounts borrowed using the authority  
16 provided under subsection (d).

17 “(E) Any funds received by the Commission  
18 under section 2114 of this title in exchange for use  
19 of, or the right to use, any mark, copyright or pat-  
20 ent.

21 “(2) The Chairman of the Commission shall deposit  
22 in the fund the amounts accepted as contributions under  
23 subsection (a). The Secretary of the Treasury shall credit  
24 to the fund the interest on, and the proceeds from sale  
25 or redemption of, obligations held in the fund.

1       “(3) The Secretary shall invest any portion of the  
2 fund that, as determined by the Chairman, is not required  
3 to meet current expenses. Each investment shall be made  
4 in an interest-bearing obligation of the United States or  
5 an obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by  
6 the United States that the Chairman determines has a  
7 maturity suitable for the fund.

8       “(c) USE OF FUND.—The fund shall be available to  
9 the Commission—

10           “(1) for the expenses of establishing the World  
11 War II memorial, including the maintenance and  
12 preservation amount provided for in section 8(b) of  
13 the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1008(b));

14           “(2) for such other expenses, other than routine  
15 maintenance, with respect to the World War II me-  
16 morial as the Commission considers warranted; and

17           “(3) to secure, obtain, register, enforce, protect,  
18 and license any mark, copyright or patent that is  
19 owned by, assigned to, or licensed to the Commission  
20 under section 2114 of this title to aid or facilitate  
21 the construction of the World War II memorial.

22       “(d) SPECIAL BORROWING AUTHORITY.—(1) To as-  
23 sure that groundbreaking, construction, and dedication of  
24 the World War II memorial are carried out on a timely  
25 basis, the Commission may borrow money from the Treas-

1 ury of the United States in such amounts as the Commis-  
2 sion considers necessary, but not to exceed a total of  
3 \$65,000,000. Borrowed amounts shall bear interest at a  
4 rate determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, taking  
5 into consideration the average market yield on outstanding  
6 marketable obligations of the United States of comparable  
7 maturities during the month preceding the month in which  
8 the obligations of the Commission are issued. The interest  
9 payments on such obligations may be deferred with the  
10 approval of the Secretary, but any interest payment so de-  
11 ferred shall also bear interest.

12       “(2) The borrowing of money by the Commission  
13 under paragraph (1) shall be subject to such maturities,  
14 terms, and conditions as may be agreed upon by the Com-  
15 mission and the Secretary, except that the maturities may  
16 not exceed 20 years and such borrowings may be redeem-  
17 able at the option of the Commission before maturity.

18       “(3) The obligations of the Commission shall be  
19 issued in amounts and at prices approved by the Sec-  
20 retary. The authority of the Commission to issue obliga-  
21 tions under this subsection shall remain available without  
22 fiscal year limitation. The Secretary of the Treasury shall  
23 purchase any obligations of the Commission to be issued  
24 under this subsection, and for such purpose the Secretary  
25 of the Treasury may use as a public debt transaction of

1 the United States the proceeds from the sale of any securi-  
2 ties issued under chapter 31 of title 31. The purposes for  
3 which securities may be issued under such chapter are ex-  
4 tended to include any purchase of the Commission's obli-  
5 gations under this subsection.

6 “(4) Repayment of the interest and principal on any  
7 funds borrowed by the Commission under paragraph (1)  
8 shall be made from amounts in the fund. The Commission  
9 may not use for such purpose any funds appropriated for  
10 any other activities of the Commission.

11 “(e) TREATMENT OF BORROWING AUTHORITY.—In  
12 determining whether the Commission has sufficient funds  
13 to complete construction of the World War II memorial,  
14 as required by section 8 of the Commemorative Works Act  
15 (40 U.S.C. 1008), the Secretary of the Interior shall con-  
16 sider the funds that the Commission may borrow from the  
17 Treasury under subsection (d) as funds available to com-  
18 plete construction of the memorial, whether or not the  
19 Commission has actually exercised the authority to borrow  
20 such funds.

21 “(f) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—(1) Notwithstanding  
22 section 1342 of title 31, the Commission may accept from  
23 any person voluntary services to be provided in further-  
24 ance of the fund-raising activities of the Commission relat-  
25 ing to the World War II memorial.

1       “(2) A person providing voluntary services under this  
2 subsection shall be considered to be a Federal employee  
3 for purposes of chapter 81 of title 5, relating to compensa-  
4 tion for work-related injuries, and chapter 171 of title 28,  
5 relating to tort claims. A volunteer who is not otherwise  
6 employed by the United States shall not be considered to  
7 be a Federal employee for any other purpose by reason  
8 of the provision of such voluntary service, except that any  
9 volunteers given responsibility for the handling of funds  
10 or the carrying out of a Federal function are subject to  
11 the conflict of interest laws contained in chapter 11 of title  
12 18 and the administrative standards of conduct contained  
13 in part 2635 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

14       “(3) The Commission may provide for reimbursement  
15 of incidental expenses that are incurred by a person pro-  
16 viding voluntary services under this subsection. The Com-  
17 mission shall determine those expenses that are eligible for  
18 reimbursement under this paragraph.

19       “(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to  
20 require any Federal employee to work without compensa-  
21 tion or to allow the use of volunteer services to displace  
22 or replace any Federal employee.

23       “(g) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS.—A con-  
24 tract entered into by the Commission for the design or  
25 construction of the World War II memorial is not a fund-

1 ing agreement as that term is defined in section 201 of  
2 title 35.

3 “(h) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH ME-  
4 MORIAL.—Notwithstanding section 10 of the Commemora-  
5 tive Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1010), the authority for the  
6 construction of the World War II memorial provided by  
7 Public Law 103–32 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note) expires on De-  
8 cember 31, 2005.”.

9 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
10 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following  
11 new item:

“2113. World War II memorial in the District of Columbia.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Public Law 103–  
13 32 (40 U.S.C. 1003 note) is amended by striking sections  
14 3, 4, and 5.

15 (c) EFFECT OF REPEAL OF CURRENT MEMORIAL  
16 FUND.—Upon the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
17 of the Treasury shall transfer amounts in the fund created  
18 by section 4(a) of Public Law 103–32 (40 U.S.C. 1003  
19 note) to the fund created by section 2113(b) of title 36,  
20 United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

21 **SEC. 202. GENERAL AUTHORITY TO SOLICIT AND RECEIVE**  
22 **CONTRIBUTIONS.**

23 Subsection (e) of section 2103 of title 36, United  
24 States Code, is amended to read as follows:



1       “(e) SOLICITATION AND RECEIPT OF CONTRIBU-  
 2 TIONS.—(1) The Commission may solicit and receive  
 3 funds and in-kind donations and gifts from any State, mu-  
 4 nicipal, or private source to carry out the purposes of this  
 5 chapter. The Commission shall deposit such funds in a  
 6 separate account in the Treasury. Funds from that ac-  
 7 count shall be disbursed upon vouchers approved by the  
 8 Chairman.

9       “(2) The Commission shall establish written guide-  
 10 lines setting forth the criteria to be used in determining  
 11 whether the acceptance of funds and in-kind donations  
 12 and gifts under paragraph (1) would—

13               “(A) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the  
 14 Commission, or any member or employee of the  
 15 Commission, to carry out the responsibilities or offi-  
 16 cial duties of the Commission in a fair and objective  
 17 manner; or

18               “(B) compromise the integrity or the appear-  
 19 ance of the integrity of the programs of the Commis-  
 20 sion or any official involved in those programs.”.

21 **SEC. 203. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND RELATED ITEMS.**

22       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 36, United  
 23 States Code, as amended by section 201(a)(1), is further  
 24 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 2114. Intellectual property and related items**

2 “(a) AUTHORITY TO USE AND REGISTER INTELLEC-  
3 TUAL PROPERTY.—The American Battle Monuments  
4 Commission may—

5 “(1) adopt, use, register, and license trade-  
6 marks, service marks, and other marks;

7 “(2) obtain, use, register, and license the use of  
8 copyrights consistent with section 105 of title 17;

9 “(3) obtain, use, and license patents; and

10 “(4) accept gifts of marks, copyrights, patents  
11 and licenses for use by the Commission.

12 “(b) AUTHORITY TO GRANT LICENSES.—The Com-  
13 mission may grant exclusive and nonexclusive licenses in  
14 connection with any mark, copyright, patent, or license for  
15 the use of such mark, copyright or patent, except to the  
16 extent the grant of such license by the Commission would  
17 be contrary to any contract or license by which the use  
18 of the mark, copyright, or patent was obtained.

19 “(c) ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.—The Commission  
20 may enforce any mark, copyright, or patent by an action  
21 in the district courts under any law providing for the pro-  
22 tection of such marks, copyrights, or patents.

23 “(d) LEGAL REPRESENTATION.—The Attorney Gen-  
24 eral shall furnish the Commission with legal representa-  
25 tion as the Commission may require under subsection (c).  
26 The Secretary of Defense shall provide representation for

1 the Commission in administrative proceedings before the  
2 Patent and Trademark Office and Copyright Office.

3 “(e) IRREVOCABILITY OF TRANSFERS OF COPY-  
4 RIGHTS TO COMMISSION.—Section 203 of title 17 shall  
5 not apply to any copyright transferred in any manner to  
6 the Commission.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
8 at the beginning of such chapter, as amended by section  
9 201(a)(2), is further amended by adding at the end the  
10 following new item:

“2114. Intellectual property and related items.”.

11 **SEC. 204. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

12 Chapter 21 of title 36, United States Code, is amend-  
13 ed as follows:

14 (1) In section 2101(b)—

15 (A) by striking “title 37, United States  
16 Code,” in paragraph (2) and inserting “title  
17 37”; and

18 (B) by striking “title 5, United States  
19 Code,” in paragraph (3) and inserting “title 5”.

20 (2) In section 2102(a)(1), by striking “title 5,  
21 United States Code” and inserting “title 5”.

22 (3) In section 2103—

23 (A) by striking “title 31, United States  
24 Code” in subsection (h)(2)(A)(i) and inserting  
25 “title 31”;

1 (B) by striking “title 44, United States  
 2 Code” in subsection (i) and inserting “title 44”;  
 3 and

4 (C) by striking “chairman” each place it  
 5 appears and inserting “Chairman”.

## 6 **Subtitle B—National Cemeteries**

### 7 **SEC. 211. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL NATIONAL** 8 **CEMETERIES.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
 10 Affairs shall establish, in accordance with chapter 24 of  
 11 title 38, United States Code, a national cemetery in each  
 12 of the four areas in the United States that the Secretary  
 13 determines to be most in need of such a cemetery to serve  
 14 the needs of veterans and their families.

15 (b) OBLIGATION OF FUNDS IN FISCAL YEAR 2000.—  
 16 The Secretary shall obligate from the advance planning  
 17 fund in the Construction, Major Projects account appro-  
 18 priated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal  
 19 year 2000 such amounts for costs that the Secretary esti-  
 20 mates are required for the planning and commencement  
 21 of the establishment of national cemeteries under this sec-  
 22 tion.

23 (c) REPORTS.—(1) Not later than 120 days after the  
 24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
 25 mit to Congress a report on the establishment of the na-

1 tional cemeteries under subsection (a). The report shall  
 2 set forth the four areas identified by the Secretary for  
 3 such establishment, a schedule for such establishment, an  
 4 estimate of the costs associated with such establishment,  
 5 and the amount obligated from the advance planning fund  
 6 under subsection (b).

7 (2) Not later than one year after the date on which  
 8 the report described in paragraph (1) is submitted to Con-  
 9 gress, and annually thereafter until the establishment of  
 10 the national cemeteries under subsection (a) is complete,  
 11 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that up-  
 12 dates the information included in the report described in  
 13 paragraph (1).

14 **SEC. 212. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON IMPROVEMENTS TO**  
 15 **VETERANS' CEMETERIES.**

16 (a) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
 17 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans  
 18 Affairs shall enter into a contract with one or more quali-  
 19 fied organizations to conduct a study of national ceme-  
 20 teries described in subsection (b). For purposes of this sec-  
 21 tion, an entity of Federal, State, or local government is  
 22 not a qualified organization.

23 (b) MATTERS STUDIED.—(1) The study conducted  
 24 pursuant to the contract entered into under subsection (a)  
 25 shall include an assessment of each of the following:

1           (A) The one-time repairs required at each na-  
2           tional cemetery under the jurisdiction of the Na-  
3           tional Cemetery Administration of the Department  
4           of Veterans Affairs to ensure a dignified and re-  
5           spectful setting appropriate to such cemetery, taking  
6           into account the variety of age, climate, and burial  
7           options at individual national cemeteries.

8           (B) The feasibility of making standards of ap-  
9           pearance of such national cemeteries commensurate  
10          with standards of appearance of the finest ceme-  
11          teries in the world.

12          (C) The number of additional national ceme-  
13          teries that will be required for the interment and  
14          memorialization in such cemeteries of individuals  
15          qualified under chapter 24 of title 38, United States  
16          Code, who die after 2005.

17          (D) Improvements to burial benefits under  
18          chapter 23 of title 38, United States Code, including  
19          a proposal to increase the amount of the benefit for  
20          plot allowances under section 2303(b) of such title,  
21          to better serve veterans and their families.

22          (2) In presenting the assessment of additional na-  
23          tional cemeteries required under paragraph (1)(C), the re-  
24          port shall identify by five-year period, beginning with 2005  
25          and ending with 2020, the following:

1           (A) The number of additional national ceme-  
2           teries required during each such five-year period.

3           (B) With respect to each such five-year period,  
4           the areas in the United States with the greatest con-  
5           centration of veterans whose needs are not served by  
6           national cemeteries or State veterans' cemeteries.

7           (c) REPORT.—(1) Not later than one year after the  
8           date on which a qualified organization enters into a con-  
9           tract under subsection (a), the organization shall submit  
10          to the Secretary a report setting forth the results of the  
11          study conducted and conclusions of the organization with  
12          respect to such results.

13          (2) Not later than 120 days after the date on which  
14          a report is submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
15          shall transmit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of  
16          the House of Representatives and the Senate a copy of  
17          such report, together with any comments on the report  
18          that the Secretary considers appropriate.

## 19                   **TITLE III—HOUSING**

### 20   **SEC. 301. PERMANENT ELIGIBILITY FOR HOUSING LOANS** 21                   **FOR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED** 22                   **RESERVE.**

23          Section 3702(a)(2)(E) is amended by striking “For  
24          the period beginning on October 28, 1992, and ending on

1 September 30, 2003, each veteran” and inserting “Each  
2 veteran”.

3 **SEC. 302. HOMELESS VETERANS’ REINTEGRATION PRO-**  
4 **GRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 41 is amended by adding  
6 at the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 4111. Homeless veterans’ reintegration programs**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
9 the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employ-  
10 ment and Training, shall conduct, directly or through  
11 grant or contract, such programs as the Secretary deter-  
12 mines appropriate to expedite the reintegration of home-  
13 less veterans into the labor force.

14 “(b) AUTHORITY TO MONITOR EXPENDITURE OF  
15 FUNDS.—The Secretary may collect such information as  
16 the Secretary considers appropriate to monitor and evalu-  
17 ate the distribution and expenditure of funds appropriated  
18 to carry out this section, and such information shall be  
19 furnished to the Secretary in such form as the Secretary  
20 determines appropriate.

21 “(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
22 ‘homeless veteran’ has the meaning given that term by  
23 section 3771(2) of this title.



1 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1)

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this  
3 section amounts as follows:

4 “(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.

5 “(B) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001.

6 “(C) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

7 “(D) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

8 “(E) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

9 “(2) Funds obligated for any fiscal year to carry out  
10 this section may be expended in that fiscal year and the  
11 succeeding fiscal year.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
14 at the end the following new item:

“4111. Homeless veterans’ reintegration programs.”.

15 **SEC. 303. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE PRO-**  
16 **GRAM TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**

17 Section 3775 is amended—

18 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “During each”;  
19 and

20 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
21 section:

22 “(b) After the first 3 years of operation of such a  
23 multifamily transitional housing project, the Secretary  
24 may provide for periodic audits of the project.”.

1     **TITLE IV—COURT OF APPEALS**  
2             **FOR VETERANS CLAIMS**

3     **SEC. 401. AUTHORITY TO PRESCRIBE RULES AND REGULA-**  
4             **TIONS.**

5             Section 7254 is amended by adding at the end the  
6     following new subsection:

7             “(f) The Court may prescribe rules and regulations  
8     to carry out this chapter.”.

9     **SEC. 402. RECALL OF RETIRED JUDGES.**

10            (a) **AUTHORITY TO RECALL RETIRED JUDGES.—**  
11     Chapter 72 is amended by inserting after section 7256 the  
12     following new section:

13     **“§ 7257. Recall of retired judges**

14            “(a)(1) A retired judge of the Court may be recalled  
15     for further service on the Court in accordance with this  
16     section. To be eligible to be recalled for such service, a  
17     retired judge must at the time of the judge’s retirement  
18     provide to the chief judge of the Court (or, in the case  
19     of the chief judge, to the clerk of the Court) notice in writ-  
20     ing that the retired judge is available for further service  
21     on the Court in accordance with this section and is willing  
22     to be recalled under this section. Such a notice provided  
23     by a retired judge is irrevocable.

24            “(2) For the purposes of this section—

1           “(A) a retired judge is a judge of the Court of  
2       Veterans Appeals who retires from the Court under  
3       section 7296 of this title or under chapter 83 or 84  
4       of title 5; and

5           “(B) a recall-eligible retired judge is a retired  
6       judge who has provided a notice under paragraph  
7       (1).

8           “(b)(1) The chief judge may recall for further service  
9       on the court a recall-eligible retired judge in accordance  
10      with this section. Such a recall shall be made upon written  
11      certification by the chief judge that substantial service is  
12      expected to be performed by the retired judge for such  
13      period, not to exceed 90 days (or the equivalent), as deter-  
14      mined by the chief judge to be necessary to meet the needs  
15      of the Court.

16          “(2) A recall-eligible retired judge may not be re-  
17      called for more than 90 days (or the equivalent) during  
18      any calendar year without the judge’s consent or for more  
19      than a total of 180 days (or the equivalent) during any  
20      calendar year.

21          “(3) If a recall-eligible retired judge is recalled by the  
22      chief judge in accordance with this section and (other than  
23      in the case of a judge who has previously during that cal-  
24      endar year served at least 90 days (or the equivalent) of  
25      recalled service on the court) declines (other than by rea-

1 son of disability) to perform the service to which recalled,  
2 the chief judge shall remove that retired judge from the  
3 status of a recall-eligible judge.

4 “(4) A recall-eligible retired judge who becomes per-  
5 manently disabled and as a result of that disability is un-  
6 able to perform further service on the court shall be re-  
7 moved from the status of a recall-eligible judge. Deter-  
8 mination of such a disability shall be made in the same  
9 manner as is applicable to judges of the United States  
10 under section 371 of title 28.

11 “(c) A retired judge who is recalled under this section  
12 may exercise all of the powers and duties of the office of  
13 a judge in active service.

14 “(d)(1) The pay of a recall-eligible retired judge who  
15 retired under section 7296 of this title is specified in sub-  
16 section (c) of that section.

17 “(2) A judge who is recalled under this section who  
18 retired under chapter 83 or 84 of title 5 shall be paid,  
19 during the period for which the judge serves in recall sta-  
20 tus, pay at the rate of pay in effect under section 7253(e)  
21 of this title for a judge performing active service, less the  
22 amount of the judge’s annuity under the applicable provi-  
23 sions of chapter 83 or 84 of title 5.

24 “(e)(1) Except as provided in subsection (d), a judge  
25 who is recalled under this section who retired under chap-

1 ter 83 or 84 of title 5 shall be considered to be a reem-  
 2 ployed annuitant under that chapter.

3 “(2) Nothing in this section affects the right of a  
 4 judge who retired under chapter 83 or 84 of title 5 to  
 5 serve as a reemployed annuitant in accordance with the  
 6 provisions of title 5.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 8 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
 9 after the item relating to section 7256 the following new  
 10 item:

“7257. Recall of retired judges.”.

11 **SEC. 403. CALCULATION OF YEARS OF SERVICE AS A**  
 12 **JUDGE.**

13 Section 7296(b) is amended by adding at the end the  
 14 following new paragraph:

15 “(4) For purposes of calculating the years of service  
 16 of an individual under this subsection and subsection (c),  
 17 only those years of service as a judge of the Court shall  
 18 be credited. In determining the number of years of such  
 19 service, that portion of the aggregate number of years of  
 20 such service that is a fractional part of one year shall be  
 21 disregarded if less than 183 days and shall be credited  
 22 as a full year if 183 days or more.”.

23 **SEC. 404. JUDGES’ RETIRED PAY.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c)(1) of section 7296  
 25 is amended by striking “at the rate of pay in effect at

1 the time of retirement.” and inserting the following: “as  
2 follows:

3           “(A) In the case of a judge who is a recall-eligi-  
4 ble retired judge under section 7257 of this title or  
5 who was a recall-eligible retired judge under that  
6 section and was removed from recall status under  
7 subsection (b)(4) of that section by reason of dis-  
8 ability, the retired pay of the judge shall be the pay  
9 of a judge of the court (or of the chief judge, if the  
10 individual retired from service as chief judge).

11           “(B) In the case of a judge who at the time of  
12 retirement did not provide notice under section 7257  
13 of this title of availability for service in a recalled  
14 status, the retired pay of the judge shall be the rate  
15 of pay applicable to that judge at the time of retire-  
16 ment.

17           “(C) In the case of a judge who was a recall-  
18 eligible retired judge under section 7257 of this title  
19 and was removed from recall status under subsection  
20 (b)(3) of that section, the retired pay of the judge  
21 shall be the pay of the judge at the time of the re-  
22 moval from recall status.”.

23       (b) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS.—Subsection (f)  
24 of such section is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing new paragraph:

1       “(3)(A) A cost-of-living adjustment provided by law  
2 in annuities payable under civil service retirement laws  
3 shall apply to retired pay under this section only in the  
4 case of retired pay computed under paragraph (2) of sub-  
5 section (c).

6       “(B)(i) If such a cost-of-living adjustment would (but  
7 for this subparagraph) result in the retired pay of a re-  
8 tired chief judge being in excess of the annual rate of pay  
9 in effect for the chief judge of the court as provided in  
10 section 7253(e)(1) of this title, such adjustment may be  
11 made in the retired pay of that retired chief judge only  
12 in such amount as results in the retired pay of the retired  
13 chief judge being equal to that annual rate of pay (as in  
14 effect on the effective date of such adjustment).

15       “(ii) If such a cost-of-living adjustment would (but  
16 for this subparagraph) result in the retired pay of a re-  
17 tired judge (other than a retired chief judge) being in ex-  
18 cess of the annual rate of pay in effect for judges of the  
19 court as provided in section 7253(e)(2) of this title, such  
20 adjustment may be made only in such amount as results  
21 in the retired pay of the retired judge being equal to that  
22 annual rate of pay (as in effect on the effective date of  
23 such adjustment).”.

24       (c) COORDINATION WITH MILITARY RETIRED  
25 PAY.—Subsection (f) of such section is further amended

1 by adding after paragraph (3), as added by subsection (b),  
2 the following new paragraph:

3 “(4) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of section 5532  
4 of title 5, if a regular or reserve member of a uniformed  
5 service who is receiving retired or retainer pay becomes  
6 a judge of the court, or becomes eligible therefor while  
7 a judge of the court, such retired or retainer pay shall  
8 not be paid during the judge’s regular active service on  
9 the court, but shall be resumed or commenced without re-  
10 duction upon retirement as a judge.”.

11 **SEC. 405. SURVIVOR ANNUITIES.**

12 (a) SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Subsection (a)(5) of sec-  
13 tion 7297 is amended by striking “two years” and insert-  
14 ing “one year”.

15 (b) ELECTION TO PARTICIPATE.—Subsection (b) of  
16 such section is amended in the first sentence by inserting  
17 before the period “or within six months after the date on  
18 which the judge marries if the judge has retired under  
19 section 7296 of this title”.

20 (c) REDUCTION IN CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subsection (c)  
21 of such section is amended by striking “3.5 percent of the  
22 judge’s pay” and inserting “that percentage of the judge’s  
23 pay that is the same as provided for the deduction from  
24 the salary or retirement salary of a judge of the United



1 States Court of Federal Claims for the purpose of a sur-  
2 vivor annuity under section 376(b)(1)(B) of title 28”.

3 (d) INTEREST PAYMENTS.—Subsection (d) of such  
4 section is amended—

5 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
7 paragraph:

8 “(2) The interest required under the first sentence  
9 of paragraph (1) shall not be required for any period—

10 “(A) during which a judge was separated from  
11 any service described in section 376(d)(2) of title 28;  
12 and

13 “(B) during which the judge was not receiving  
14 retired pay based on service as a judge or receiving  
15 any retirement salary as described in section  
16 376(d)(1) of title 28.”.

17 (e) SERVICE ELIGIBILITY.—(1) Subsection (f) of  
18 such section is amended—

19 (A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding  
20 subparagraph (A)—

21 (i) by striking “at least 5 years” and in-  
22 serting “at least 18 months”; and

23 (ii) by striking “last 5 years” and inserting  
24 “last 18 months”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
2 paragraph:

3 “(5) If a judge dies as a result of an assassination  
4 and leaves a survivor or survivors who are otherwise enti-  
5 tled to receive annuity payments under this section, the  
6 18-month requirement in the matter in paragraph (1) pre-  
7 ceding subparagraph (A) shall not apply.”.

8 (2) Subsection (a) of such section is further  
9 amended—

10 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “who is in  
11 active service or who has retired under section 7296  
12 of this title” after “Court”;

13 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “7296(c)”  
14 and inserting “7296”;

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
16 paragraph:

17 “(8) The term ‘assassination’ as applied to a  
18 judge shall have the meaning provided that term in  
19 section 376(a)(7) of title 28 as applied to a judicial  
20 official.”.

21 (f) AGE REQUIREMENT OF SURVIVING SPOUSE.—  
22 Subsection (f) of such section is further amended by strik-  
23 ing “or following the surviving spouse’s attainment of the  
24 age of 50 years, whichever is the later” in paragraph  
25 (1)(A).

1 **SEC. 406. LIMITATION ON ACTIVITIES OF RETIRED JUDGES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 72 is amended by adding  
3 at the end the following new section:

4 **“§ 7299. Limitation on activities of retired judges**

5 “(a) A retired judge of the Court who is recall-eligible  
6 under section 7257 of this title and who in the practice  
7 of law represents (or supervises or directs the representa-  
8 tion of) a client in making any claim relating to veterans’  
9 benefits against the United States or any agency thereof  
10 shall, pursuant to such section, be considered to have de-  
11 clined recall service and be removed from the status of  
12 a recall-eligible judge. The pay of such a judge, pursuant  
13 to section 7296 of this title, shall be the pay of the judge  
14 at the time of the removal from recall status.

15 “(b) A recall-eligible judge shall be considered to be  
16 an officer or employee of the United States, but only dur-  
17 ing periods when the judge is serving in recall status. Any  
18 prohibition, limitation, or restriction that would otherwise  
19 apply to the activities of a recall-eligible judge shall apply  
20 only during periods when the judge is serving in recall sta-  
21 tus.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
23 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
24 at the end the following new item:

“7299. Limitation on activities of retired judges.”.

1 **SEC. 407. EARLY RETIREMENT AUTHORITY FOR CURRENT**  
2 **JUDGES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR STAG-**  
3 **GERED TERMS OF JUDGES.**

4 (a) RETIREMENT AUTHORIZED.—One eligible judge  
5 may retire in accordance with this section with respect to  
6 each year beginning in 1999 and ending in 2003.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE JUDGES.—For purposes of this section,  
8 an eligible judge is an associate judge of the United States  
9 Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims who—

10 (1) has at least 10 years of service creditable  
11 under section 7296 of title 38, United States Code;

12 (2) has made an election to receive retired pay  
13 under section 7296 of such title;

14 (3) has at least 20 years of service described in  
15 section 7297(l) of such title; and

16 (4) is at least 55 years of age.

17 (c) MULTIPLE ELIGIBLE JUDGES.—If for any year  
18 specified in subsection (a) more than one eligible judge  
19 provides notice in accordance with subsection (d), the  
20 judge who has the greatest seniority as a judge of the  
21 United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall  
22 be the judge who is eligible to retire in accordance with  
23 this section in that year.

24 (d) NOTICE.—An eligible judge who desires to retire  
25 in accordance with this section with respect to any year  
26 covered by subsection (a) shall provide to the President

1 and the chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals  
2 for Veterans Claims written notice to that effect not later  
3 than April 1 of that year, except that in the case of an  
4 eligible judge desiring to retire with respect to 1999, such  
5 notice shall be provided not later than November 1, 1999,  
6 or 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
7 whichever is later. Such a notice shall specify the retire-  
8 ment date in accordance with subsection (e). Notice pro-  
9 vided under this subsection shall be irrevocable.

10 (e) DATE OF RETIREMENT.—A judge who is eligible  
11 to retire in accordance with this section shall be retired  
12 during the fiscal year in which notice is provided pursuant  
13 to subsection (d), but not earlier than 90 days after the  
14 date on which that notice is provided, except that a judge  
15 retired in accordance with this section with respect to  
16 1999 shall be retired not earlier than 90 days, and not  
17 later than 150 days, after the date on which notice is pro-  
18 vided pursuant to subsection (d).

19 (f) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—Except as provided in  
20 subsection (g), a judge retired in accordance with this sec-  
21 tion shall be considered for all purposes to be retired under  
22 section 7296(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code.

23 (g) RATE OF RETIRED PAY.—The rate of retired pay  
24 for a judge retiring in accordance with this section is—

1           (1) the rate applicable to that judge under sec-  
2           tion 7296(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code, mul-  
3           tiplied by

4           (2) the fraction (not in excess of 1) in which—

5                 (A) the numerator is the sum of (i) the  
6                 number of years of service of the judge as a  
7                 judge of the United States Court of Appeals for  
8                 Veterans Claims creditable under section 7296  
9                 of such title, and (ii) the age of the judge; and

10                (B) the denominator is 80.

11       (h) ADJUSTMENTS IN RETIRED PAY FOR JUDGES  
12 AVAILABLE FOR RECALL.—Subject to section  
13 7296(f)(3)(B) of title 38, United States Code, an adjust-  
14 ment provided by law in annuities payable under civil serv-  
15 ice retirement laws shall apply to retired pay under this  
16 section in the case of a judge who is a recall-eligible retired  
17 judge under section 7257 of such title, or who was a recall-  
18 eligible retired judge under that section and was removed  
19 from recall status under subsection (b)(4) of that section  
20 by reason of disability.

21       (i) DUTY OF ACTUARY.—Section 7298(e)(2) is  
22 amended—

23               (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-  
24               paragraph (D); and

1           (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
 2           lowing new subparagraph:

3           “(C) For purposes of subparagraph (B), the term  
 4           ‘present value’ includes a value determined by an actuary  
 5           with respect to a payment that may be made under sub-  
 6           section (b) from the retirement fund within the contempla-  
 7           tion of law.”.

## 8           **TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS**

### 9           **SEC. 501. REPEAL OF CERTAIN SUNSET PROVISIONS.**

10          (a) **ENHANCED LOAN ASSET SALE AUTHORITY.**—

11          Section 3720(h) is amended—

12                 (1) by striking “(1)” after “(h)”; and

13                 (2) by striking paragraph (2).

14          (b) **PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO LIQUIDATION**

15          **SALES ON DEFAULTED HOME LOANS.**—Section 3732(c)

16          is amended by striking paragraph (11).

17          (c) **INCOME VERIFICATION AUTHORITY.**—Section

18          5317(g) is repealed.

### 19           **SEC. 502. ENHANCED QUALITY ASSURANCE PROGRAM**

20                         **WITHIN THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINIS-**

21                         **TRATION.**

22          (a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) Chapter 77 is amended by

23          adding at the end the following new subchapter:

1       “SUBCHAPTER III—QUALITY ASSURANCE

2   **“§ 7731. Establishment**

3       “(a) The Secretary shall carry out a quality assur-  
4   ance program in the Veterans Benefits Administration.  
5   The program may be carried out through a single quality  
6   assurance division in the Administration or through sepa-  
7   rate quality assurance entities for each of the principal  
8   organizational elements (known as ‘services’) of the Ad-  
9   ministration.

10       “(b) The Secretary shall ensure that any quality as-  
11   surance entity established and operated under subsection  
12   (a) is established and operated so as to meet generally ap-  
13   plicable governmental standards for independence and in-  
14   ternal controls for the performance of quality reviews of  
15   Government performance and results.

16   **“§ 7732. Functions**

17       “The Under Secretary for Benefits, acting through  
18   the quality assurance entities established under section  
19   7731(a), shall on an ongoing basis perform and oversee  
20   quality reviews of the functions of each of the principal  
21   organizational elements of the Veterans Benefits Adminis-  
22   tration.

23   **“§ 7733. Personnel**

24       “The Secretary shall ensure that the number of full-  
25   time employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration



1 assigned to quality assurance functions under this sub-  
2 chapter is adequate to perform the quality assurance func-  
3 tions for which they have responsibility.

4 **“§ 7734. Annual report to Congress**

5 “The Secretary shall include in the annual report to  
6 the Congress required by section 529 of this title a report  
7 on the quality assurance activities carried out under this  
8 subchapter. Each such report shall include—

9 “(1) an appraisal of the quality of services pro-  
10 vided by the Veterans Benefits Administration,  
11 including—

12 “(A) the number of decisions reviewed;

13 “(B) a summary of the findings on the de-  
14 cisions reviewed;

15 “(C) the number of full-time equivalent  
16 employees assigned to quality assurance in each  
17 division or entity;

18 “(D) specific documentation of compliance  
19 with the standards for independence and inter-  
20 nal control required by section 7731(b) of this  
21 title; and

22 “(E) actions taken to improve the quality  
23 of services provided and the results obtained;

24 “(2) information with respect to the accuracy of  
25 decisions, including trends in that information; and

1 “(3) such other information as the Secretary  
2 considers appropriate.”.

3 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
4 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following  
5 new items:

“SUBCHAPTER III—QUALITY ASSURANCE

“7731. Establishment.

“7732. Functions.

“7733. Personnel.

“7734. Annual report to Congress.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subchapter III of chapter 77  
7 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection  
8 (a), shall take effect on the later of October 1, 1999, or  
9 at the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date of  
10 the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 503. EXTENSION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MI-**  
12 **NORITY VETERANS.**

13 Section 544(e) is amended by striking “December 31,  
14 1999” and inserting “December 31, 2004”.

15 **SEC. 504. CODIFICATION OF RECURRING PROVISIONS IN**  
16 **ANNUAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
17 **FAIRS APPROPRIATIONS ACTS.**

18 (a) CODIFICATION OF RECURRING PROVISIONS.—(1)  
19 Section 313 is amended by adding at the end the following  
20 new subsections:

1       “(c) COMPENSATION AND PENSION.—Funds appro-  
2       priated for Compensation and Pensions are available for  
3       the following purposes:

4               “(1) The payment of compensation benefits to  
5       or on behalf of veterans as authorized by section 107  
6       and chapters 11, 13, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of this title.

7               “(2) Pension benefits to or on behalf of vet-  
8       erans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and  
9       61 of this title and section 306 of the Veterans’ and  
10      Survivors’ Pension Improvement Act of 1978.

11              “(3) The payment of benefits as authorized  
12      under chapter 18 of this title.

13              “(4) Burial benefits, emergency and other offi-  
14      cers’ retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and  
15      certificates, payments of premiums due on commer-  
16      cial life insurance policies guaranteed under the pro-  
17      visions of article IV of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’  
18      Civil Relief Act of 1940 (50 U.S.C. App. 540 et  
19      seq.), and other benefits as authorized by sections  
20      107, 1312, 1977, and 2106 and chapters 23, 51, 53,  
21      55, and 61 of this title and the World War Adjusted  
22      Compensation Act (43 Stat. 122, 123), the Act of  
23      May 24, 1928 (Public Law No. 506 of the 70th  
24      Congress; 45 Stat. 735), and Public Law 87–875  
25      (76 Stat. 1198).

1       “(d) MEDICAL CARE.—Funds appropriated for Med-  
2 ical Care are available for the following purposes:

3           “(1) The maintenance and operation of hos-  
4 pitals, nursing homes, and domiciliary facilities.

5           “(2) Furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient  
6 and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of  
7 the Department, including care and treatment in fa-  
8 cilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department.

9           “(3) Furnishing recreational facilities, supplies,  
10 and equipment.

11           “(4) Funeral and burial expenses and other ex-  
12 penses incidental to funeral and burial expenses for  
13 beneficiaries receiving care from the Department.

14           “(5) Administrative expenses in support of  
15 planning, design, project management, real property  
16 acquisition and disposition, construction, and ren-  
17 ovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for  
18 the use of the Department.

19           “(6) Oversight, engineering, and architectural  
20 activities not charged to project cost.

21           “(7) Repairing, altering, improving, or pro-  
22 viding facilities in the medical facilities and homes  
23 under the jurisdiction of the Department, not other-  
24 wise provided for, either by contract or by the hire  
25 of temporary employees and purchase of materials.

1           “(8) Uniforms or uniform allowances, as au-  
2           thorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5.

3           “(9) Aid to State homes, as authorized by sec-  
4           tion 1741 of this title.

5           “(10) Administrative and legal expenses of the  
6           Department for collecting and recovering amounts  
7           owed the Department as authorized under chapter  
8           17 of this title and Public Law 87–693, popularly  
9           known as the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act  
10          (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.).

11          “(e) MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLA-  
12          NEOUS OPERATING EXPENSES.—Funds appropriated for  
13          Medical Administration and Miscellaneous Operating Ex-  
14          penses are available for the following purposes:

15               “(1) The administration of medical, hospital,  
16               nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and  
17               research activities authorized by law.

18               “(2) Administrative expenses in support of  
19               planning, design, project management, architectural  
20               work, engineering, real property acquisition and dis-  
21               position, construction, and renovation of any facility  
22               under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Depart-  
23               ment, including site acquisition.

24               “(3) Engineering and architectural activities  
25               not charged to project costs.

1           “(4) Research and development in building con-  
2           struction technology.

3           “(f) GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES.—Funds ap-  
4           propriated for General Operating Expenses are available  
5           for the following purposes:

6           “(1) Uniforms or allowances therefor.

7           “(2) Hire of passenger motor vehicles.

8           “(3) Reimbursement of the General Services  
9           Administration for security guard services.

10          “(4) Reimbursement of the Department of De-  
11          fense for the cost of overseas employee mail.

12          “(5) Administration of the Service Members  
13          Occupational Conversion and Training Act of 1992  
14          (10 U.S.C. 1143 note).

15          “(g) CONSTRUCTION.—Funds appropriated for Con-  
16          struction, Major Projects, and for Construction, Minor  
17          Projects, are available, with respect to a project, for the  
18          following purposes:

19          “(1) Planning.

20          “(2) Architectural and engineering services.

21          “(3) Maintenance or guarantee period services  
22          costs associated with equipment guarantees provided  
23          under the project.

24          “(4) Services of claims analysts.

1           “(5) Offsite utility and storm drainage system  
2           construction costs.

3           “(6) Site acquisition.

4           “(h) CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS.—In addi-  
5           tion to the purposes specified in subsection (g), funds ap-  
6           propriated for Construction, Minor Projects, are available  
7           for—

8           “(1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities  
9           under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Depart-  
10          ment which are necessary because of loss or damage  
11          caused by a natural disaster or catastrophe; and

12          “(2) temporary measures necessary to prevent  
13          or to minimize further loss by such causes.”.

14          (2)(A) Chapter 1 is amended by adding at the end  
15          the following new section:

16       **“§ 116. Definition of cost of direct and guaranteed**  
17               **loans**

18          “For the purpose of any provision of law appro-  
19          priating funds to the Department for the cost of direct  
20          or guaranteed loans, the cost of any such loan, including  
21          the cost of modifying any such loan, shall be as defined  
22          in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974  
23          (2 U.S.C. 661a).”.

1       (B) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
2 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following  
3 new item:

“116. Definition of cost of direct and guaranteed loans.”.

4       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (c) through (h)  
5 of section 313 of title 38, United States Code, as added  
6 by subsection (a)(1), and section 116 of such title, as  
7 added by subsection (a)(2), shall take effect with respect  
8 to funds appropriated for fiscal year 2001.

Passed the House of Representatives June 29, 1999.

Attest:

*Clerk.*